



DEVAL L. PATRICK
GOVERNOR

TIMOTHY P. MURRAY
LT. GOVERNOR

KEVIN M. BURKE
SECRETARY

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security
Department of Fire Services

P.O. Box 1025 ~ State Road

Stow, Massachusetts 01775

(978) 567~3100 Fax: (978) 567~3121



STEPHEN D. COAN
STATE FIRE MARSHAL

THOMAS P. LEONARD
DEPUTY STATE FIRE MARSHAL

For Immediate Release: November 3, 2008

Contact: Jennifer Mieth, (978) 567-3381

Lawrence Fatal Fire Electrical

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan and Lawrence Fire Chief Peter C. Takvorian announced preliminary findings of their joint investigation into this morning's fatal fire at 15 Leeds Terrace has determined the fire was electrical in nature. The fire took the life of a woman and a young adult man. Results are preliminary pending the medical examiners formal identification of the victims and determination of the cause of death.

Investigators believe the fire was an electrical event in the kitchen, either a baseboard heater or a power strip in the same point of origin may have malfunctioned.

Chief Takvorian said, "This fire is truly tragic and our sympathies go out to the family." He added, "Smoke alarms provide early warning. It is also important to have and practice a home escape plan that has two ways out and a meeting place out front. Remember, to get out and stay out."

Coan said, "The two fatal fires this weekend are extremely sad and both may have been related to heating. Heating is the second leading cause of home fires in Massachusetts. We are concerned that this winter will lead to a large number of heating caused fires and possible deaths and have launched a *Keep Warm, Keep Safe* campaign to help educate people to stay safe this winter." For information go online to www.mass.gov/keepwarmkeepsafe.

The fire was jointly investigated by the Lawrence Fire Department, the Lawrence Police Department, State Police assigned to the Office of the State Fire Marshal and the Essex District Attorney's Office.